

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b),
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Waynesboro and Collinwood
Tennessee)

MM Docket No. 97-60
RM-8982

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: February 7, 1997

Released: February 14, 1997

Comment Date: April 7, 1997

Reply Comment Date: April 22, 1997

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it the petition for rule making filed by Ohio Broadcast Associates ("petitioner"), licensee of Station WFRQ(FM), Channel 235C3, Waynesboro, Tennessee, requesting the reallocation of Channel 235C3 from Waynesboro to Collinwood, Tennessee, and the modification of Station WFRQ(FM)'s license to specify Collinwood as its community of license. Petitioner states it will apply for Channel 235C3, if reallocated to Collinwood.

2. Petitioner submits that its proposal complies with the requirements set forth in Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules, which permits the modification of a station's authorization to specify a new community of license without affording other interested parties an opportunity to file competing expressions of interest. See Modification of FM and TV Authorizations to Specify a New Community of License, 4 FCC Rcd 4870, 4874 (1989), recon. granted in part, 5 FCC Rcd 7094 (1990). In support of its proposal, petitioner states that Collinwood is an incorporated community with a 1990 U.S. Census population of 1,014 persons. Petitioner notes that the community has its own local government with an elected Mayor and Town Council, a full-time local police force and fire department. It further submits that the adoption of its reallocation proposal would provide Collinwood (population

1,014)¹ with its first local aural transmission service, while Waynesboro (population 1,824) would retain service from AM Station WTNR.

3. We believe petitioner's proposal warrants consideration since the allotment of Channel 235C3 to Collinwood could provide the community with its first local aural transmission service without depriving Waynesboro of its sole local aural transmission service. We have also determined that neither community lies within or near an Urbanized Area.

4. Channel 235C3 can be allotted to Collinwood consistent with the minimum distance separation requirements at the site specified in Station WFRQ(FM)'s license.² As requested, we also propose to modify petitioner's license for Station WFRQ(FM) to specify Collinwood as the station's community of license. In accordance with Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules, we will not accept expressions of interest in the use of Channel 235C3 at Collinwood or require the petitioner to demonstrate the availability of an additional equivalent class channel for use by such parties.

5. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the communities listed below, to read as follows:

| <u>City</u> | <u>Channel No.</u> | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Present</u> | <u>Proposed</u> |
| Waynesboro, Tennessee | 235C3 | -- |
| Collinwood, Tennessee | -- | 235C3 |

6. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

7. Interested parties may file comments on or before April 7, 1997, and reply comments on or before April 22, 1997, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

¹ Population figures reported herein were taken from the 1990 U.S. Census.

² The coordinates for Channel 235C3 at Collinwood, Tennessee, are 35-08-16 and 87-49-43.

Audrey Malkan, Owner
Ohio Broadcast Associates
404 Avalon Avenue
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662
(Petitioner)

8. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

9. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202)418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no ex parte presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An ex parte presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off protection. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules).

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposals in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be

accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, DC.